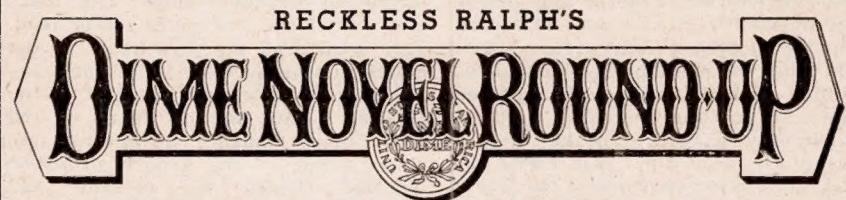


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To All Our Members in the Armed Forces and at Home

RECKLESS RALPH'S



A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

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FAVORITE STORIES

By G. H. Cordier

In previous articles the writer wrote for the "Round Up," the writer gave some account of stories and novels he had read in his boyhood that greatly appealed to him by reason of their intense interest, and dramatic fire and color. Confident that all dime novels readers love narratives and details of old time tales and stories, the writer venture to hope that the following article may prove of interest to the readers of our old friend the "Round Up." The two authors who most influenced the writer in his boyhood days were Edgar Allan Poe and Jules Verne. It was in the writers childhood that he first explored five small black volumes containing The Complete Works of Edgar Allan Poe. What wells these to drink from at the day spring of thought and fancy? Their mystery, their gloom, their intensity, fascinated the writer while he shuddered. Their erudition to his childish mind was awe inspiring. Songs which pierced him with a sense of sorrow he had never known; tales which held his imagination with a power that nothing could break. He was enchanted. And the magician who had cast over him the spell of the weird fancy world, was the gifted, the wonderful Poe. And in the years that have passed that spell has never quite lost its power. The writer still thrills when he reads the wonderful short stories. "The Pit and the Pendulum," "The Facts in

the Case of M. Valdemar," "A Descent Into the Maelstrum," "The Masque of the Red Death," "The Black Cat," "The Casks of Amontillado," "The M. S. Found in a Bowl." Just a few of the marvelous stories that have never been surpassed or even equalled. The first ones noted "The Pit and the Pendulum," completely captured the writers fancy. The account of the weird dungeon of the Inquisition, where the victim of the dark tribunal, bound on a low framework sees the awful pendulum slowly coming down on him inch by inch. And when he escapes this peril he is forced by fiery contracting walls, into the hideous pit that yawned in the floor of the dungeon, but is saved at the last moment by the arrival of the French army, who have seized the hideous tribunal. And in the "Facts in the Case of M. Valdemar," where a dead man is kept alive by the power of mesmerism, till his body decomposes before the very eyes of the horrified spectators. What can equal the marvelous tale of the "Descent Into the Maelstrum," where the wrecked ship is slowly drawn into the terrible whirlpool, and at last vanishes forever, but the hero, the narrator of the story, by a seeming miracle escapes. And last "The Cask of Amontillado," where the victim of a diabolical plot is lured by the victim to the vaults of his palace, and there entombed alive. And all the rest of the wonderous tales and poems that only Poe had the genius to write. But those of his masterpieces that di-

rectly appeal to the lovers of intense fiction, and the Dime Novel, are his great adventure, mystery, and detective stories. Of all the tales of buried treasure that were ever written, "The Gold Bug," stands supreme and alone. Nothing like it had ever appeared before or anything to equal it since. And interwoven with it is the mystery of the secret writing that holds the clue to the great treasure of the pirate — Kidd.

The ingenuity displayed in the search for the treasure. The white skull in the tree that can only be seen from a certain point that indicates the location of the hidden hoard. Only Poe has the power to excite the readers imagination and carry him on to the climax of the story and the mighty treasure is at last discovered. Then we have the two marvelous adventure tales. "The Unparalleled Adventure Of One Hans Pfaall," and the "Narrative of A. Gordon Pym." In the one the account of a trip to the moon in a balloon, told with so much artistic detail and descriptive power that the reader almost comes to believe that the whole thing is an account of actual happenings. In the second tale, the "Narrative of A. Gordon Pym," we have one of the most weird and thrilling tales of the sea ever written. To the writer's mind it is the greatest sea story ever told. The tale of the bloody mutiny on the doomed ship, unknown to the supposed teller of the story, as he lay in a drugged sleep unconscious of his friend, search for him in deathly fear of the murderous mutineers, till at last he is found, and roused from his profound sleep to play a part in bringing justice and punishment on the bloodthirsty wretches, who had slaughtered captain and crew. Then the description of the wreck of the ship and the terrible hardships of the survivors till they drift at last to the mystic land close to the South Pole. Grand old Jules Verne, well named the Prophet of the Twentieth Century. With what farsighted vision he foresaw all the wonders of the present century. He even imagined a Hitler. In a little known story, "The Begum Fortune," he gave an account of a German, who devoted an immense fortune which he inherited together with a Frenchman, to building a city of steel, where he cast a mighty cannon to destroy his

French neighbors. How I loved Jules Verne in my boyhood days. "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under The Sea," was one of the few books I ever read. How I admired the personality of the stately Captain Nemo. The commander of the marvelous Nautilus — the floating palace in the depth of the sea. What amazing adventures the three found — the French professor Arnaux, Consul his servant, and Ned Land the Canadian harpooner — passed through while prisoners on board the Nautilus. What more thrilling account could be conceived than the description of the destruction of the unknown warship and its sinking by the ram of the Nautilus; while the horrified prisoners at last make their escape during the "Nautilus' struggle to break from the power of the terrible "Mailstrum." Then we have the Trip To The Moon, Around The Moon, To The Center Of The Earth, Off On A Comet, The Mysterious Island, —The Sequence to Twenty Thousand Leagues Under The Sea — The Purchase Of The North Pole, The Floating Island and all the rest of the marvelous romances that have made Jules Verne's name immortal. In the magazine of today, great space is given to the detective story. Of all the thousands who read the modern detective fiction, who could give the name of the creator of the first great detective? Not one in a hundred. And it adds to Poes claim to fame that he was the creator of the first great detective in the character of Monsieur C. Auguste Dupin who is, beyond question, or doubt, the first great character in detective romances. The three famous stories: "The Murders In The Rue Morgue," "The Mystery Of Marie Roget," and "The Purloined Letter," rank as first of the great detective stories. All that has since been written only take second place. He is the common ancestor of Monsieur Lecoc, Sherlock Holmes, and all the host of lesser sleuths, who live in the pages of detective fiction.

An author greatly admired by the writer was Harrison Ainsworth, the great writer of historical romances. He wrote "The Tower of London," "Old St. Pauls," "Windsor Castle," "Jack Shepard," "The Misers Daughter," "Rookwood," and many others. His stories were extensively copied by the

writers who wrote for the English boys papers, and magazines. Such stories as "The Night Guard," or "The Mystery of the Five Masks," "The Armour's Son" or "The Mystery of the Tower of London," and many others appeared in the boys magazines of the days gone by.

Another author greatly esteemed by the writer was Wilkie Collens. Among many others, he wrote "The Moonstone," and "The Women in White," and also a famous short story, "A Strange Bed," which is one of best short stories ever written. In his story "The Moonstone," he drew the character of Sargent Cuff, who takes rank only second to Poes character, M. Dupen. His stories were famous by reason of these involved and intricate plots, which kept the reader in suspense, till the last chapter was ended and the reader —charmed and delighted— laid the book down finished.

An author greatly admired by the writer was Buliver Lyston, and his three famous romances "The Last Days of Pompeii," "A Strange Storm," and "The Cumming Race" completely captured his imagination. "The Last Days of Pompeii," the greatest tale of classic time; "The Strange Story," a wonderful tale of the occult; and "The Cumming Race" a marvelous story of a wonderful race in the interior of the earth. Two stories that were well known in their day were "The Wolf Boy of China" and "Perserverance Island." They were published over fifty years ago, and were both highly interesting. The first was the account of the adventures of a half English and half Chinese boy, in his search for his grandfather, the king of a hidden peoples, in the interior of China. The story was highly interesting by reason of the graphic description of the manners and customs of the people of China of that distant time. The other was the story of a castaway on a distant island, who commencing with literally nothing, by his knowledge, courage, and perserverance, made everything he wanted from the common needs of life to building a fortification mansion and a submarine boat. Another story I greatly admired was "Jane Eyré." I read it first when I was quite a little boy and I have never lost my admiration for its brave heroine, who fought with such cour-

age against a host of troubles. I must before I continue, pay my tribute of respect to Dumas and to his great creation "The Count Of Monte" with his cry of "The World Is Mine." Together with all the Dumas romances Clark Russell was another of my favorite authors, and his two magnificent stories of the sea, "The Frozen Pirate," and "The Flying Dutchman," had my warmest admiration.

There are many more of the masters of literature that I hold in great regard, but lack of space forbids me naming more. So I will now turn to our old standbys, the Dime and Half Dime Libraries. I was quite a little boy when I first met "The Wide Awake Library," and the Tousey publications. I can say that I was brought up on them. I remember distinctly looking in the news dealers window and seeing the first numbers of "The Boys Of New York," on display. One of the first stories was "The Demon Of The Deep," afterwards republished in Wide Awake Library together with many others. "The Island of Mystery," "The Devil's Diamond," "The Mysterious Messenger," "The Boy Clown," "Three Yankee Chums," "The Sea Fiends," "The Warf Boys of New York," "Ferret," "The Little Detective," "The Red Circle." A powerful story of a criminal secret society, that lured men of wealth into their den, then robbed and murdered them. This story, together with a companion story "The Black Ring," I greatly admired, and my enjoyment of the story has lasted to the present day. "Satans Tree," "Thirteen," "The Brotherhood of Death," "Meta," "The Girl Crusoe," "A Trip to the Center of the Earth," "Double Six — The Dominoes of Death," "Prairie Witch," "Kingdom In the Sea," "Captain Tom Drake," "The Twelve Owls," "Satin," "The Mystery of Ten Years," "The Specter of the Pueblo," "The Mark of Mystery," "The Weird House of White Cliff," "The Shortys Farmery." Then I have numbers Two and Three — The Pirate and Robinson Crusoe. The "Wide Awake Library," to me has a charm all its own. And the few I have are endeared to me by the power of long association. Most of what I have I have had since my boyhood days. Also I have a number of the Frank Reade stories in the "Wide Awake Library."

"The Monitor of the Air," "Clipper of the Clouds," "Electric Cyclone," "Land of Crimson Snow," "Steam Wonder," and a number of others.

Next to the Tousey Publications I had a great affection for the original Beadles Dime Library and its successors the Dime and Half when they changed to the larger size.

I would be lost if I could no longer have the beloved old library. I have a few of the many published and I feel for them the great regard and admiration induced by long companionship and memories of another, age and another time. The following are my favorites: "The Fire Fiend," "Russian Spy," "The Wolf Demon," "The Indian Mazeppa," "The Winged Whale," "The Red Rajah," "Captain Cool Blade," "The Phantom Hand," "Ivan Wrise," "Azhost," "The Axman," "Bronze Jack," "The Masked Band," "The Duke of Diamond," "Joe Phoenix," "The Sea Slipper," "The Severed Head," "The Demon Duelest," "Sal Scall," "Capt. Volcano," "The Three Spaniards," "The Czar's Spy," "The Doctor Detective," "Murad the Mamuske," "The Wolves of New York," "The Man of Steel," "Corporal Cannon," "The Phantom Knights," "Old '49," "Man Spider," "Deaths Head Cuirassiers," "The Man in Red," "La Marmoset," "One Eye," "Flying Dutchman of 1880," "Hank Hound," "The Fog Devil," "Alligator Ike," "Seth Slocum," "Three Frigate," "Electro Pete," "Old Cross Eye Rugh of Richmond."

Next to Beadles "Dime Library" I cherished a very warm feeling for the "Half Dime Library." It has been said that the "Half Dime Library" had been written by boys for the entertainment of boys. And such seems to have been the case. I know that certain numbers have a great appeal to me, and that I have held on to them for very many years and have read them, time and again. I list a few of my best loved stories, "Deadwood Dick," "Bill Braden," Deadwood Dick Defense and all the rest of the Deadwood Dick stories of which there are very many. "The Sea Serpent," "The Dumb Page," "Ocean Bloodhound," "Death Face," "Glass Eye," "White Buffalo," "The Red Brotherhood," "The Boy Mniers," "Kit Harefoot," "Watch Eye," "The Lion of the Sea," "The Haunted Hunter," "Dainty Lance,"

"Lance and Lasso," "Panther Paul," "The Sword Hunters," "The Lost Captain," "Old Solitary," "The Boy Bedouins," "Crooked Cale," "Dashing Dick," "Yankee Rajah," "Gold-seeker Guide," "The Tiger Tamer," and "The Huge Hunter."

It was in my early boyhood, that, on a visit to Canada with my parents, I first encountered "The Boys Of England," and "The Young Men Of Great Britain," and conceived for them an affection that has never grown cold. This was in the year 1879, and the pleasure I had from them at that far distant date remains a pleasure for me still. I list a few of the stories in the volume in my collection to give the Brotherhood some idea of the nature of the stories published in the two magazines. "The Boys of Hawkhouse School," Storm Driven Tom," Schoolboy Poacher," "The Kings Scholar," Oswald the Unknown," "Jack the Stand Bearer," "Three Dashing Hussars," "Ned Nimble," "The Soldier Prince," or "A Fight for Fame." This is a fine story about the Prince Imperial, the son of Napoleon III, who was killed in Zululand. "Tightrope Tom Dan of London Dock," "The Schoolboys of Westminster," "Leon The Brave," or "Neros Britain," "Fio Diavolo," "Sea Gipsier," "Larking Tom Red Phantom," "Bluecoat Boy," and many more.

These were many of the world's famous short stories I greatly admired. To name a few: "The House and the Brain," "The Iron Shroud," "A Night at the Scala," "Jack Long," or "Short in the eye," "The Diamond Lens," "The Lost Room." What was it? I give only a small number of the best known tales. I have space for no more. In bringing his article toward a close the writer will give the name of an author greatly admired many years ago — H. Rider Haggard, and all his thrilling stories. "Allan Quarterman" and all the rest of his well known romances including the glamorous and lovely "She." His stories were largely imitated in "The Boys Of New York. Such stories "I," "We," "Where," "Jack And I," or "King Pharaoh Caves," appearing in its pages. In writing his articles the writer has had the idea of being informative, as well as entertaining and if he has interested as well as amused his readers he is well content.

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NEWS NEWS

by Ralph F. Cummings

A member sent me New Nick Carter Weekly No. 377, so I could see what a fellow member put over on him. First 12 pages there is a hole 1 and 2 inches by 4 inches long nearly in the middle of the novel, this is completely rotted away and not fit for anyone, only the scrap pile, and the Brother said, its enough to bring tears to a wooden Indian. He also sent me a reprint of No. of Jesse James Stories, republished Dec. 1938 with the back gone, and date torn off, and he was charged for an original, and plenty, too. Ye editor has them in A 1 condition, uncut at 50c each, but when you have to pay three or four dollars for them in poor condition, its going some. I don't like to kick fellows, but supposing it was visa versa, then what. We must treat others as we wish to be treated ourselves.

George Barton says, there is no doubt that Frank Tousey was the one who started the idea of special "Libraries" devoted to Boys Stories. He also thinks that Tousey was the originator of Boys of New York, when he was a partner with Norman Munro. He was close friends with George G. Small and took him away from G. Munro's Girls & Boys of America when Boys of New York started. Tousey was responsible for the start of the first "Boys Library" ever published — The New York Boys Library at 10 cents a copy. This is pretty clearly shown by the fact that when he got a chance to secure the Boys of New York & Boys Library by purchase from Munro, he and Small took it and merged their New York Boys Weekly with the Boys of New York, then changed the Library title to "Wide Awake Library," dropped

the price to a nickle and reprinted all the first numbers of the Boys Library in exactly the same sequence. The great success of Tousey in this field caused Beadle to change the form of their novels from the small books to the Large Library style. The Dime & Half Dime Libraries were the result of Tousey's innovations in the field of popular Literature for the Young."

That wa's some List of Members in the November Roundup, wasn't it? The most we've ever had. We ought to go over the 200 mark in 1945.

That was also some ad, that Charles Bragin had, in Pluck & Luck, oh boy. makes my mouth water to look at 'em, and to think they are all in nice condition, too. And J. P. Guinon has a nice ad on Black & White Libraries, too.

Brother L. D. Webster, No. 132, has lots of boys books for sale, such as Algers, Optics, and others. Send to him for a list. He has novels too.

Have you seen all the new stamps that's been coming out lately, such as Telegraph, Railroad, Steamship, two Special Delivery's 13c & 17c, and Philippines, Moving Picture, 3c stamps and the 5c Korea. Too bad we can't have some new novels too.

Here's wishing every one a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and a good many of them, too, and thanking all subscribers, advertisers, as well as our printer for 1944, and many greetings to all for 1945 and then some, and God Bless the men and women that are fighting for us in this war of cruelty and suffering, with the hopes it will soon be over, and our loved ones back with us again.

All up for 1945. An account of the paper shortage, please get your dues in early for the coming year, Thank you.

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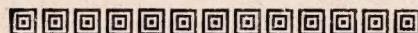
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